

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Royal Gorge Field Office
3028 E. Main Street
Canon City, CO 81212**

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NUMBER: DOI- BLM-CO-200-2013-0035 CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC-0-88194 (renewal and amendment)

PROJECT NAME: Realty – State of Colorado Office of Information Technology
Communication site on LaVeta Pass Renewal and amendment

PLANNING UNIT: Huerfano Subregion #8

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Huerfano County, 6th Principal Meridian, T. 29 S., R. 70 W., Section 24: Lot 3.

APPLICANT: State of Colorado Office of Information Technology/PSCN 601 E. 18th Ave.
Suite 250, Denver, Colorado 80203

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: The proposal is to renew an existing building and communication tower, and to amend the right-of-way to include an existing weather station. The site is a fenced communication site right-of-way (the footprint being 200 foot by 200 foot, or 40,000 sq. feet) that was originally authorized June 13, 1963. The State of Colorado Office of Information Technology is requesting the renewal of the right of way grant COC-0-88194, for an existing, operational communications site known as La Veta Pass and is also requesting to amend the current authorization to include an existing Automatic Weather Observation Station (AWOS). The AWOS will be installed by the Colorado Department of Transportation, Division of Aeronautics. This AWOS provides improved aviation weather reporting for the mountain pass which is among the most vulnerable to weather dependent aircraft accidents.

The State of Colorado, in partnership with local government agencies, jointly operate and maintain a public safety communications system known as the statewide Digital Trunked Radio (DTR) system. The La Veta Pass site is one of the communication facilities that constitute the system.

The State of Colorado, Office of Information Technology, Public Safety Communications Network (PSCN), provides communications services to State agencies, counties, cities and public safety agencies. PSCN maintains over 200 communication sites in the state under a variety of arrangements, including federal lands. PSCN has the resources, knowledge, experience and technical ability to manage, protect and restore sites as required by the site's permit terms, conditions, stipulations and applicable State and Federal laws and regulations.

The applicant has further stated that the project will not use, produce, transport or store any hazardous materials, nor will any hazardous materials be used in the construction operation maintenance or termination of this project.

The State of Colorado has current sites on Bureau of Land Management lands in Colorado including Storm King (COC019500), Nine Mile Hill (Whitewater) (COC-057569, La Monte (COC-123005), Lookout/Vermillion (COC-053801), Magnetic Mountain (Wilson Creek) (COC-062977), Cedar Mountain (COC-0034526) and Parshall Divide (COC-0011390).

Renewal of the existing authorization and amendment to include the existing weather station will allow the State of Colorado to continue to provide facilities needed for public safety communications in the area for Federal, State, and local government public safety entities.

Public benefits are: improved response by public safety officials for protection of public life and property.

The amendment will be subject to the terms and conditions of the original lease and the mitigation in the remarks below.

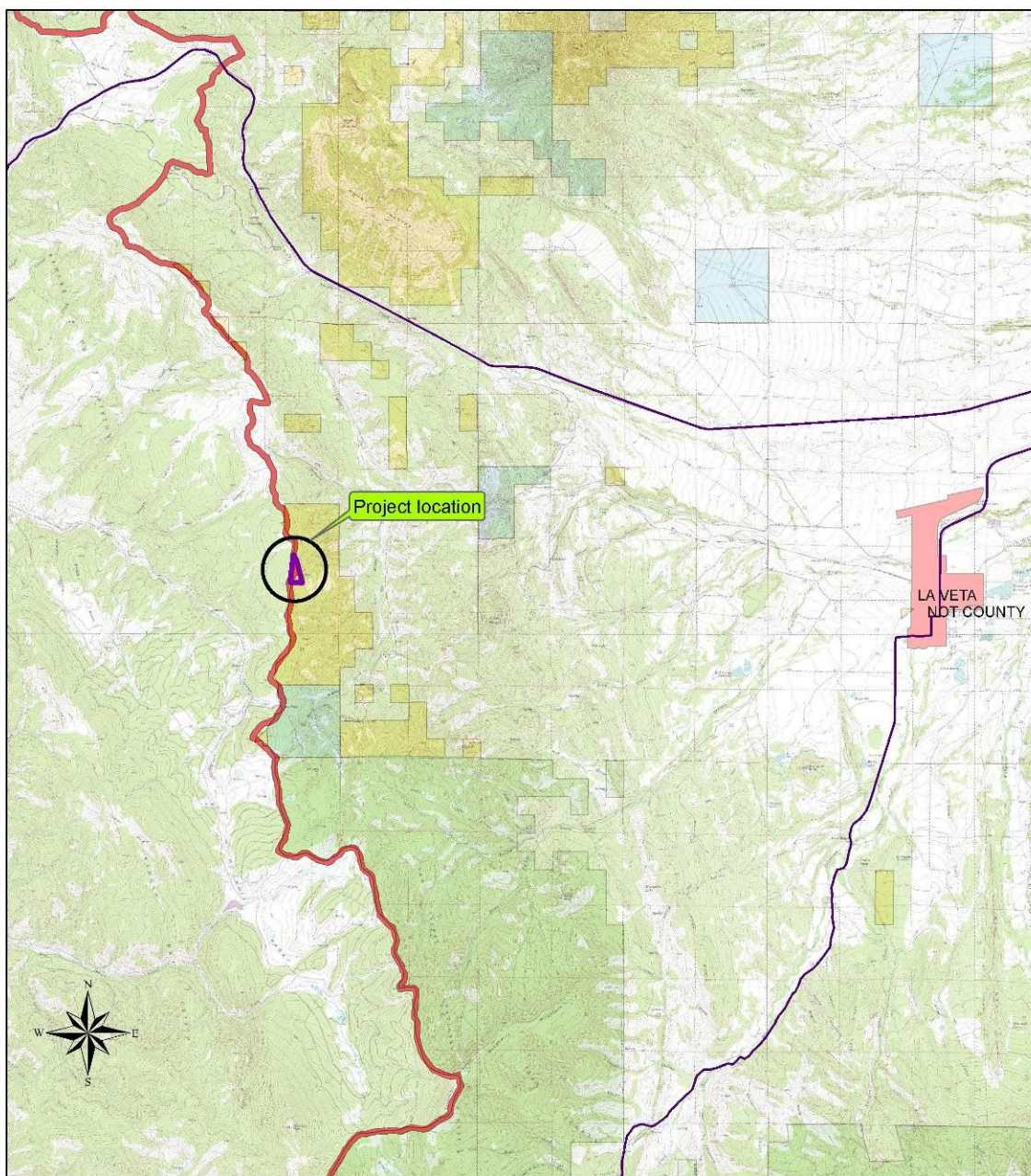
PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The proposed action is subject to the following plan:

Name of Plan: Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: May 13, 1996

Decision Number: 8-48 There are areas non-excluded for rights-of-way.

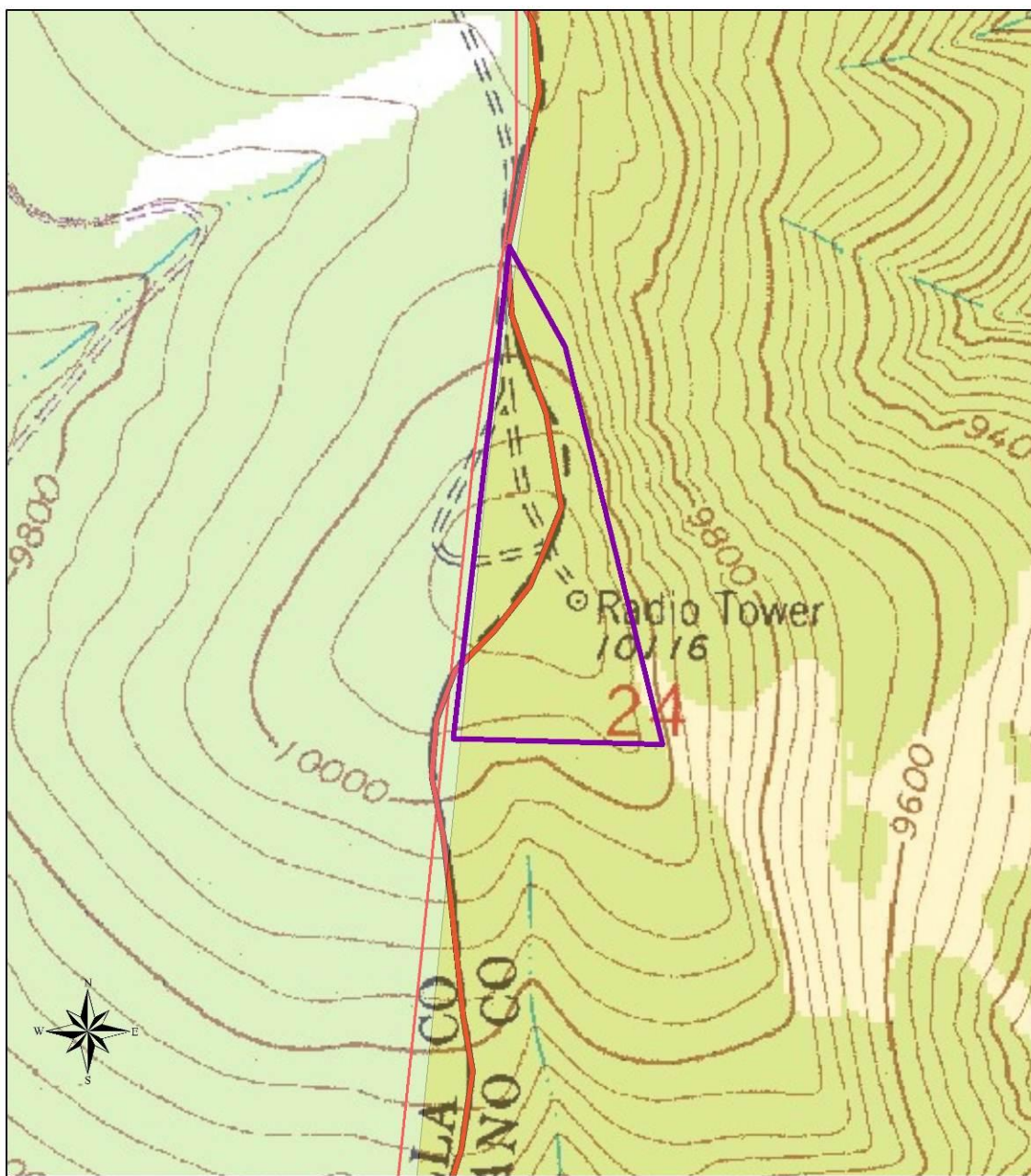
The proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3).



State of Colorado Office of Information Technology
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 Section 24: Lot 3.
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0 900 1,800 3,600 5,400 7,200 Meters

NOTE TO MAP USERS
 No warrantee is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the data layers shown on this map. The official land records of the data providers should be checked or current status on any specific tract of land.



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0 50 100 200 300 400 Meters

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CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: This proposed action is listed as a Categorical Exclusion in DOI Departmental Manual Part 516 Chapter 11 E (13). None of the following exceptions in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

Exclusion	YES	NO
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.	_____	<u> X </u>
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands; floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	_____	<u> X </u>
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.	_____	<u> X </u>
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	_____	<u> X </u>
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	_____	<u> X </u>
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	_____	<u> X </u>
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.	_____	<u> X </u>
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.	_____	<u> X </u>
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	_____	<u> X </u>
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.	_____	<u> X </u>
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites.	_____	<u> X </u>
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species.	_____	<u> X </u>

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM REVIEW			
NAME	TITLE	AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	Initials/date
Matt Rustand	Wildlife Biologist	Terrestrial Wildlife, T&E, Migratory Birds	MR, 02/22/2013
Jeff Williams	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	-----
Chris Cloninger	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	-----
John Lamman	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland, Weeds	JL, 02/21/2013
Dave Gilbert	Fisheries Biologist	Aquatic Wildlife, Riparian/Wetlands	DG, 02/21/2013
Stephanie Carter	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology, Waste Hazardous or Solid, Noise	SSC, 3/5/13
Melissa Smeins	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology	-----
John Smeins	Hydrologist	Hydrology, Water Quality/Rights, Soils	JS, 2/20/13
Ty Webb	Prescribed Fire Specialist	Air Quality	TW, 2/22/13
Jeff Covington	Cadastral Surveyor	Cadastral Survey	JC, 2/20/13
Kalem Lenard	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Wilderness, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers	KL, 2/21/2013
John Nahomenuk	River Manager	Recreation, Wilderness, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers	-----
Ken Reed	Forester	Forestry	KR, 2/20/13
Monica Weimer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	MMW, 2/22/13
Erin Watkins	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	-----
Vera Matthews	Realty Specialist	Realty	2/20/13, vm
Steven Craddock	Realty Specialist	Realty	-----
Steve Cunningham	Law Enforcement Ranger	Law Enforcement	SC 3/1/13
Bob Hurley	Fire Management Officer	Fire Management	BH, 2/20/2013

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: No historic properties were found in the area of potential effect [see report CR-RG-00-23 (N)]. Therefore, the proposed undertaking will have no effect on any historic properties (those eligible for the NRHP).

Native American Religious Concerns: No possible traditional cultural properties were located during the cultural resources inventory (see above). There is no other known evidence that suggests the project area holds special significance for Native Americans.

Threatened and Endangered Species: The project area is located within the Spanish Peaks Lynx Analysis Unit. However, the infrastructure (road, radio tower, building site, etc.) is currently in

place from the previous right of way authorizations. The addition of a weather station will not cause additional direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts to potential species present. Impacts to any potential TES species are discountable.

Migratory Birds: In order to be in compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and BLM policy, BLM must avoid actions, where possible, that result in a “take” of migratory birds. Generally this requires a seasonal restriction that requires vegetation disturbance be avoided from May 15 thru July 15. This is the breeding and brood rearing season for most Colorado migratory birds. Any action that results in a “take” of a migratory bird will not be allowed.

Seed disturbed areas with the following, weed free, native seed mixture at project completion.

Seed Mix for La Veta Radio Tower Site

Species	% in Mix	Lbs PLS*
Arizona Fescue Cultivar, Redondo		
<u><i>Festuca arizonica</i></u>	33	2
<u>Mountain brome (<i>Bromus marginatus</i>)</u>	34	20
<u>Slender wheatgrass (<i>Elymus trachycaulus</i>)</u>	33	8
Totals	100%	lbs/acre 30

*PLS = pure live seed.

Minerals: The federal minerals in the proposed project area are open to mineral location, therefore requiring coordination between surface uses as applicable. If there are unpatented mining claims that are active in the proposed project location, any associated claim markers encountered during project implementation cannot be disturbed. However, as of June 2012 there are no active claims in these areas.

Waste, Hazardous or Solid: If this project involves some type of oil or fuel use, transfer and/or storage, an adequate spill kit is required to be onsite. The project proponent will be responsible for adhering to all applicable local, State and Federal regulations in the event of a spill, which includes following the proper notification procedures in BLM’s Spill Contingency Plan.

The Air Division of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) should be contacted regarding the proposed generator, as these are regulated units. In addition, any requirements under state or federal regulations concerning Sara Title III and/or the Community Right to Know Act regarding propane management, with regards to a potential release to the atmosphere, also need to be followed.

Nothing in the analysis or approval of this action by BLM authorizes or in any way permits a release or threat of a release of hazardous materials (as defined under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq., and its regulations) into the environment that will require a response action or result in the incurrence of response costs.

COMPLIANCE PLAN (optional): Routine compliance will be conducted by the Royal Gorge Field Office Realty Staff.

NAME OF PREPARER: Greg Valladares, Realty Specialist

SUPERVISORY REVIEW: /s/ Jay M Raiford

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: /s/ Martin Weimer

DATE: 12/30/13

DECISION AND RATIONALE: I have reviewed this Categorical Exclusion and have decided to implement the Proposed Action.

This action is listed in the Department Manual as an action that may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action relative to the 10 criteria listed above and have determined that it does not represent an exception and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:

/s/ Jay M. Raiford
Keith E. Berger, Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 12/31/13

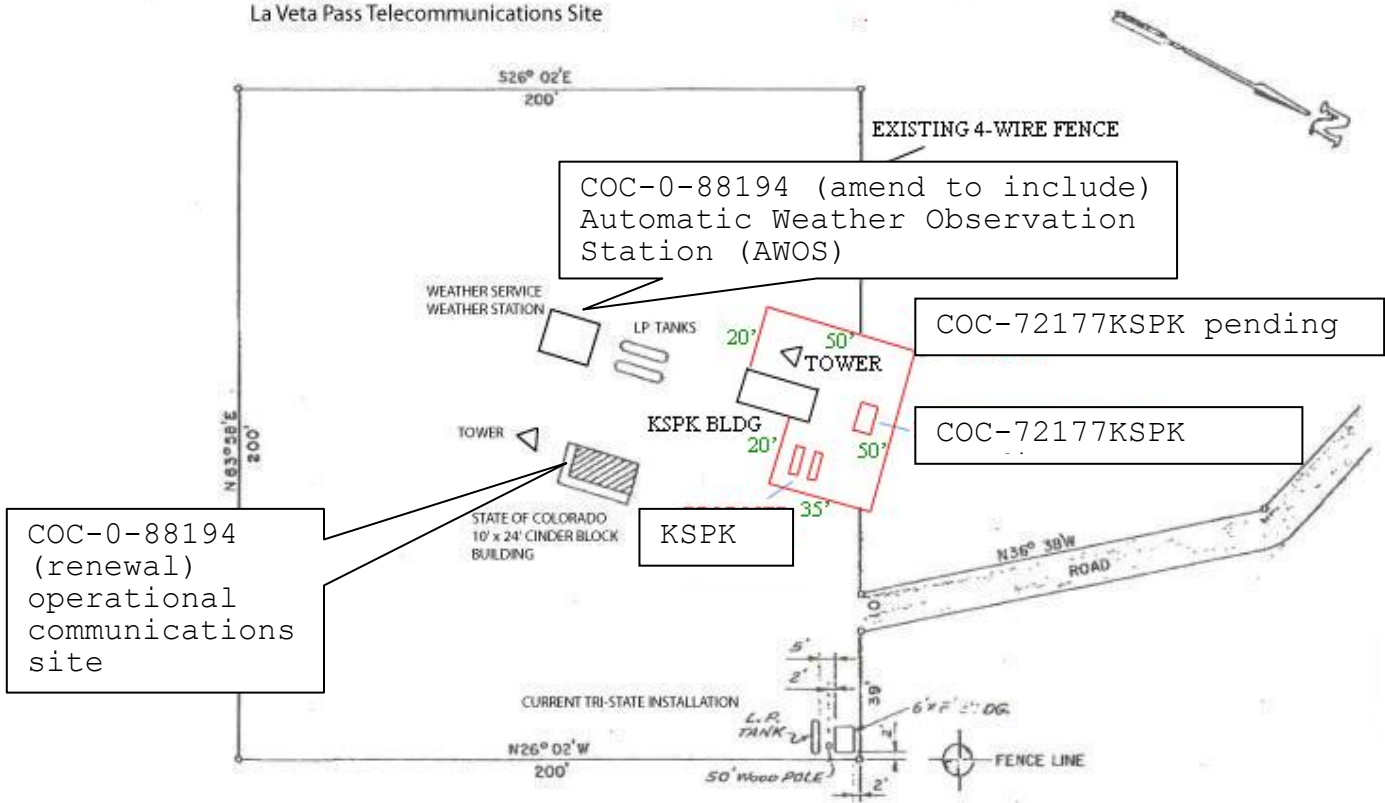
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 X CHISELED IN SANDSTONE ROCK
 POWER POLE
 FOUND 5/8" REBAR, WITH YELLOW CAP, PLS 10369
 FOUND OLD BRASS CAP
 OVERHEAD POWER LINE
 BOUNDARY PER UNIT 1 OF FORBES WAGON CREEK RANCH
 FOREST SERVICE BOUNDARY PER 1927 RE-SURVEY
 CENTERLINE EXISTING ROAD

[illegible]

Professional Land Surveyor, California City, Colorado P.O. Box 10026, Zip 80501 Phone (719) 626-1600	
Job Name: 2008-173 TRV	
Scale: 1" = 150'	Drawn By: W.S.B
Date: = 12-11-2008	
Job No. 2008-173	Sheet 1/1

SITE PLAN
La Veta Pass Telecommunications Site



STATE OF COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION 2452 WEST SECOND AVENUE DENVER, COLORADO			
TITLE PROPERTY PLAT LA VETA PASS STATION			
SCALE 1" = 40'	DATE 17 MARCH 1975	SHEET 1 OF 1	

